



Elvenborn: Book 3 of the Halfblood Chronicles

By Andre Norton, Mercedes Lackey

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In this long-awaited new novel in The Halfblood Chronicles, fantasy greats Norton and Lackey tell the enthralling story of the reclusive elvenlord Kyrtian, who emerges as a hero in a world torn by politics and war. When his cousin, Aelmarkin, tries to prove that Kyrtian is unfit to run his estate, the plan backfires, and soon Kyrtian, who doesn't share the venal, greedy nature of his cousin, finds himself with more power than he ever wanted.

Like his father before him, Kyrtian has always treated the humans on his estate like servants, instead of enslaving them as other elvenlords do. His father's legacy also leads Kyrtian to learn ancient military skills long since lost to elvenkind through the carelessness of the elvenlords. Kyrtian's rediscovered knowledge piques the interest of the current elvenlords, and soon Kyrtian finds himself appointed the new commander of the army, to the relief of his ruling peers.

For the sons of the most powerful elvenlords, the Young Lords, have rebelled against their fathers and are waging war. But by taking advantage of both the privileges of his new command and the help of some unexpected new friends, Kyrtian finally gains the resources to embark on his own, personal quest--resuming his father's search for the Great Portal, the magical doorway through which the original elvenlords entered this world.

As war rages between some sons and fathers, Kyrtian searches desperately for his own lost father, hoping to uncover not only the mystery of his disappearance, but also the secret behind the origin of elvenkind.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The excitement flags somewhat in the third book of Norton and Lackey's popular high fantasy series (after *The Elvenbane* and *Elvenblood*). Where earlier volumes focused on humans and dragons, now elves come to the fore in a tale of the machinations, power-playing and cruel games that are the lifeblood of the High Lords. Into this treacherous territory blunders a good-hearted elf, Kyratian V'dyll Lord Prastaran, who is not a High Lord, has no political ambitions and doesn't care for the cruel ways of most of the elven folk. Kyratian has a small holding in the country, keeps no slaves and his human servants actually like him. Obsessed with military tactics out in the middle of nowhere, Kyratian has learned the art of war—which brings him to the attention of the High Lords. Against his will, Kyratian ends up leading the elven armies in their ongoing war against the dragons and the halfblood elves that have plagued them throughout the series. But the battles that Kyratian supposedly wins against his half-elven foes turn out to be just the beginning of his adventures. The authors take moral stabs at issues ranging from slavery to strip-mining, but the story line itself glosses over details, while the action comes across too often as told rather than shown. Hopefully, the next installment, the forthcoming *Elvenbred*, will resurrect the fireworks more typical of these heavy-hitting authors. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

An attempt by his rivals to discredit the young Elvenlord Kyratian fails, instead propelling him into a position of power as commander of the army sent against the Young Lords who have risen in revolt against their Elvenlord fathers. When a series of encounters with a group of fugitive half-elven Wizards convinces Kyratian that he is fighting on the wrong side, he opts out of the war and undertakes a journey in search of his missing father and the lost Portal to the elven homeland. The third installment in this best-selling series (*Elvenbane*; *Elvenblood*) by veteran sf and fantasy authors Norton and Lackey depicts a world in which decadent elven nobles hold the power of life or death over their human slaves. A good choice for most fantasy collections. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

The third *Halfblood* chronicle continues to unfold a mighty struggle among elves of great power, elves of lesser power, and the former slaves and other foes of the elves, who have a lot of substantial grievances but no power. The elven lord Kyratian, having escaped a vicious plot to seize everything he owns, now finds that his archaic military skills are needed for the elven lords' fight against their own children. But Kyratian is properly skeptical of his peers, and as the war escalates, he must continually reevaluate friends as well as foes. Neither Norton nor Lackey could tell a really bad story if she tried, and together they use the multivolume-saga format to incorporate abundant detail into their narrative. That is not bad in itself, but it slows the story's pace and makes *Elvenborn* a less than perfect entry into the saga. Have *The Elvenbane* (1991) and *Elvenblood* (1996) on hand for newcomers to the *Halfblood* chronicles. *Roland Green*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Richey:

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Archie Beard:

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